



Western Upper Peninsula Citizen Advisory Council DNR Division Reports

Date of Production: July 2025 (Information current as of 7/17/2025)

This document is provided by Michigan DNR staff as a supplement for Western UPCAC Council members. Please email or call with any questions.

Meetings/Events/Press Releases

Upcoming DNR Public Meetings

For virtual or conference call meeting information, please go to the DNR website at: [DNR Meetings](#) and click on the appropriate meeting and/or agenda for instructions.

July 10	Michigan Natural Resources Commission, Lansing, 9 am (NRC@michigan.gov)
July 16	Forest Management Advisory Committee, 1 pm (517-582-3220)
July 18	Timber and Forest Products Advisory Council, 8:30 am (517-582-3220)
July 24	Nonmotorized Advisory Workgroup, 10 am (517-331-6219)
July 24	Western Upper Peninsula Citizens Advisory Council, Ontonagon, 6 pm EDT (906-226-1331)
July 27	Board of Foresters, 3 pm (C906-458-6965)
August 14	Michigan Natural Resources Commission, Gaylord, 9am (NRC@michigan.gov)
August 21	Eastern Upper Peninsula Citizens Advisory Council, Munising, 6pm (906-226-1331)

UP State Park & State Sponsored Activities

Please check with the state park before attending activity for any scheduling changes. For all activities: [DNR Things to Do Calendar](#)

Sundays	Tahquamenon Falls State Park - Nature Prayer Service (through September)
July 15	Michigan Iron Industry Museum - Mining Man Program
July 22	Michigan Iron Industry Museum - Extraordinary Women in UP History
July 25-26	Wells State Park - Christmas in July
July 25-27	Fort Wilkins - Battery D Civil War Artillery Encampment
July 29	Michigan Iron Industry Museum - One Day Longer Program
Sept 5-7	Van Riper State Park - Harvest Fest Weekend
Sept 12-14	Van Riper State Park - Harvest Fest Weekend
Sept 19-20	Wells State Park - Harvest Festival Spooktacular
Sept 27	Brimley State Park - Harvest Fest
Sept 27	Tahquamenon Falls State Park - Harvest Festival

Check out these links for weekly nature events held at UP state parks:

- [Van Riper State Park Explorer Guide Program Schedule](#)
- [McLain State Park Explorer Guide Schedule](#)
- [Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park Explorer Guide Schedule](#)
- [Wells State Park Explorer Guide Schedule](#)
- [DNR Pocket Park-Escanaba Program Schedule](#)
- [Indian Lake State Park Explorer Guide Schedule](#)
- [Tahquamenon Falls State Park Explorer Guide Schedule](#)

Recent DNR Press Releases

For full details, go to: [DNR Press Room](#)

- Showcasing the DNR: Finding myself in nature (7/10/25)
- ARPA state park projects on track; 73% completed or underway (7/9/25)

- DNR welcomes 15 new conservation officers (7/8/25)
- DNR News: Turkey tracking, invasives info, enjoying 'up north' downtown & more (7/8/25)
- DNR adds 50-plus hunter safety education classes Aug. 11-17 (7/2/25)
- Showcasing the DNR: Hunters fund deer projects (7/1/25)
- Inland lake, stream surveys provide DNR with crucial fisheries data (7/1/25)
- DNR News: Forest bathing, nature learning, ORV/boating safety & more (7/1/25)
- DNR launches 2025 wild turkey brood survey (7/1/25)
- State forest plan delayed a year due to state forest ice damage (6/30/25)
- It may be hot, but our trails are cool! (6/27/25)
- Delta County: Deadhorse Road to be closed starting July 1 (6/27/25)
- Forests, trails and parks on the agenda for DNR's July meetings (6/25/25)
- Eaton County man jailed, owes \$8,000 for state forest campground thefts (6/24/25)
- DNR News: Butterflies' comeback, explorer guides, July fun and helping (6/24/25)
- Drawing results for 2025 bear and elk hunts now available (6/23/25)

Grant Contacts

For grant information, to go: [DNR Grants](#)

- | | |
|---|---|
| ▪ Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant | Merrie Carlock, 517-284-5931, carlockm@michigan.gov |
| ▪ Recreation Passport Grant | Merrie Carlock, 517-284-5931, carlockm@michigan.gov |
| ▪ Michigan Spark Grants (Public Recreation) | Merrie Carlock, 517-284-5931, carlockm@michigan.gov |
| ▪ Aquatic Habitat Grant | Chip Kosloski, 517-284-5965, kosloskic3@michigan.gov |
| ▪ Fisheries Habitat Grant Program | Chip Kosloski, 517-284-5965, kosloskic3@michigan.gov |
| ▪ Michigan Invasive Species Grant | Erin Campbell, 269-300-9698, campbelle6@michigan.gov |
| ▪ Wildlife Habitat Grant | Clay Buchanan, 517-614-0918, buchanenc1@michigan.gov |
| ▪ U.P. Deer Habitat Improvement Partnership Grant | Bill Scullon, 906-563-9247, scullonh@michigan.gov |
| ▪ Forestry Grants | https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/buy-and-apply/grants/forestry |
| ▪ Land & Water Conservation Fund | Christie Bayus, 517-242-8737, bayusc@michigan.gov |
| ▪ Waterways Program Grants | Linnea Dawson, 517-290-2200, dawsonl@michigan.gov |

Eastern UPCAC Update

The **Eastern UP Citizens' Advisory Council** met in person on June 16 in Sault Ste. Marie at Lake Superior State University. A new member was introduced, filling the seat of a new member who was unable to commit. It was also announced that Chair Tom Buckingham resigned due to retirement. Officer elections to fill the chair role will be held in August. Agenda items discussed included a wolf management update (recurring agenda topic), review of resolution responses, and updates on the eastern UP state parks and trail activities. The UP deer camp survey results were also presented along with an informative update on the wolf abundance trail camera survey and moose research project. **The next meeting of the group will be on August 21 in Munising.**

More information on both the Western and Eastern CACs can be found at www.michigan.gov/upcac.

July NRC Meeting Recap – Ed Golder, Public Information Officer

The Natural Resources Commission met on the West Campus of Lansing Community College on Thursday, July 10.

Natural Resources Deputy Shannon Lott – sitting in for Director Scott Bowen – approved:

- [The results of the May 1, 2025 oil and gas lease auction on state-managed public lands.](#)
- [The Generally Accepted Operation Practices for Sport Shooting Ranges.](#)
- Six land transactions. Details can be found [linked in the NRC agenda.](#)

Committee of the Whole, Director's Report

Steve Lenart with the Fisheries Division gave a [presentation on whitefish](#). Whitefish are found in all the Great Lakes. They live for a long time, spawn annually and are economically and culturally important to commercial and tribal fishers. Harvest of

whitefish was relatively low in the 1970s, began to rise after sea lamprey control was implemented, and has been declining over the past two decades because invasive quagga mussels have disrupted the Great Lakes food web. Invasive mussels have affected all of the Great Lakes but have hit whitefish populations particularly hard. Regulation changes won't solve the problem, Steve said. Rather, support for research and monitoring remains critical. We can also experiment with rearing and stocking of whitefish and continue to support efforts to find a solution to invasive mussels.

Gary Jones from the Marketing and Outreach Division gave a [presentation on the Generally Accepted Operation Practices for shooting ranges](#). State law requires the DNR to review and adopt these practices for shooting ranges every five years. For shooting range owners and operators, following these guidelines protects them from nuisance lawsuits related to noise. By statute, the operating practices reference the National Rifle Association's "The Range and Source Book, A Guide to Planning and Construction." While the DNR operates shooting ranges, it does not have any regulatory role where other shooting ranges in the state are concerned and does not enforce the Generally Accepted Operation Practices.

A report on legislation affecting the department was provided to commissioners and is listed below.

How to Participate in the NRC Meetings

- If you're unable to attend the meeting but wish to submit written comments on agenda items, please write to: Natural Resources Commission, P.O. Box 30028, Lansing, MI 48909 or email: nrc@michigan.gov.
- If you would like further information or would like to address the Commission, please email: nrc@michigan.gov. Persons registering on or before the Friday preceding the meeting will be allowed up to five (5) minutes for their presentation. Persons registering after the Friday preceding the meeting or at the meeting will be allowed up to three (3) minutes. Persons with disabilities needing accommodations should contact the NRC Assistant.
- Look for the agendas and other Natural Resources Commission items at the Natural Resources Commission webpage (www.michigan.gov/NRC).

July Legislative Update – Chris Semrinec, Legislative Liaison

HB 4641 – Modifies Dark Sky Preserve Designation – Rep. Brixie: This bill would amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to allow for Dark Sky Preserves in the Upper Peninsula.

- This bill has been referred to the House Committee on Government Operations.
- The Administration has not yet taken a position on this legislation.

HB 4672 & 4673 – Creates Gold Star Family Exemption for Recreation Passport – Rep. Steele & Rep. Markkanen: This bill amends the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to exempt Gold Star Family license plates from payment of the Recreation Passport fee for entry into state parks and recreation areas and designated state boating access sites.

- This bill has been referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources and Tourism.
- The Administration has not yet taken a position on this legislation.

HB 4694 & 4695 – Amends the Recreational Authorities Act – Rep. Markkanen: This bill would amend the Recreational Authorities Act to expand local control over public forest areas.

- This bill has been referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources and Tourism.
- The Administration has not yet taken a position on this legislation.

SB 408 – Remove Need for CPL in Certain Situations – Sen. Hoitenga: This bill would amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to remove the requirements for a CPL on game bird hunting preserve. This is a part of a larger package of bills to remove requirements for CPL all together.

- The bill was referred to the House Committee on Civil Rights, Judiciary and Safety.
- The Administration has not yet taken a position on this Legislation.

SB 446 – Creates Recreation Passport Exemption – Sen. McBroom: This bill would amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to exempt municipal license plates from payment of the Recreation Passport fee for entry into state parks and recreation areas and designated state boating access sites.

- This bill has been referred to the Senate Committee on Natural Resource and Agriculture.
- The Administration has not yet taken a position on this legislation.

If you would like to learn more about any bills listed, you can access the Michigan Legislature website at <https://www.legislature.mi.gov>.

Division Updates

Wildlife Division: Dave Lemmien, UP Wildlife Supervisor (submitted by Bill Scullon, Lake Superior Unit Field Manager)

- **2025 DHIPI Grants Awarded:** For the 2025 fiscal grant season we had 14 applications, and all 14 scores sufficiently to be approved. The total requested request was \$140,871.10. This year additional Deer Range Improvement Program (DRIP) funds were available and that enabled Wildlife Division to fully fund the 14 projects. In total, this year WLD will authorize the grant expenditure of \$148,306.10 (including a carryover grant project #15 with Ruffed Grouse Society from the 2024 season). This is the 17th year of the DHIPI grant program. With this year's crop of grants, the Wildlife Division will have been awarded 162 grants totaling \$1,288,244 in DRIP funds. Participating partners have contributed \$953,701.75 in match to all these projects thereby expanding the scope and scale of their positive habitat and community effects.

The purpose of this initiative is to develop a collaborative approach to deer habitat improvement on private landownership across the Upper Peninsula. There are three primary goals for this initiative. All projects should address these fundamental goals to be considered for funding:

- Produce on-the-ground deer habitat (summer and/or winter range) improvements in the Upper Peninsula that address resource needs.
- Establish and promote partnerships between the DNR, sportsmen's organizations, and other partners.
- Showcase these cooperative projects through a coordinated public outreach effort, highlighting the relationship between the DNR and Partners while educating the public on the benefits of habitat improvements made through the grant.
- Initiative funding is from an annual Deer Range Improvement Program (DRIP) fund appropriation. Public Act 106 of 1971 created the DRIP fund, whereby \$1.50 from every deer hunting license sold statewide is allocated into a restricted fund to be exclusively used for the improvement and maintenance of habitat for deer, acquisition of land for deer management, and the payment in lieu of taxes on purchased lands.

This year we have projects in Iron, Baraga, Gogebic, Ontonagon, Marquette, Delta, Alger, Mackinac and Dickinson Counties. Five are with Conservation Districts, eight are with sportsperson clubs and one is with a school district working on enhancing school forest properties. The projects range from traditional wildlife opening creations to hunter walking trail maintenance and establishment, tree plantings (i.e., hard mast, soft mast, conifers, and wildlife benefiting shrubs). Minimally 756 acres of treatments are proposed with the final numbers expected to be significantly higher. Projects are to be completed by the end of the State Fiscal Year September 30th. 2025 Projects are:

1. **Iron-Baraga Conservation District:** Iron Baraga Conservation District (IBCD) has been approved for **\$15,000.00** for the "Iron Baraga Conservation District 2025 Deer Habitat Project". This project enhances deer wintering habitat across private lands and school forests and lands in Iron and Baraga Counties. This grant will provide seedlings and trees to landowners at a significantly reduced cost, allowing them to implement habitat improvement immediately. As part of their practices available to landowners, IBCD will provide several habitats share options to eligible landowners. Habitat shares that eligible, selected landowners can participate in will incorporate several tree planting strategies. Option #1: Oak Version - Small-Scale Mixed Planting. This option includes a small-scale hard mast mixed habitat planting comprised of oaks and tree protectors along with a mixture of wildlife fruit and nut habitat seedlings. Option #2: Hemlock Version - Small Scale Mixed Planting. This is a small-scale mixed habitat planting variation for moist soil types consisting of hemlock plugs and tree protectors along with a mixture of wildlife fruit and nut seedlings. Option #3: Small-Scale Deer Orchard. Landowners can select a small-scale deer orchard comprised of standard size malus trees along with a mixture of wildlife fruit and nut habitat seedlings. Landowners may provide additional fencing and tree protectors if they wish.

Eligible landowners can purchase a fixed cost per habitat share and will be required to provide the physical labor to implement the practice. Site characteristics such as proximity to deer winter range polygon location(s), canopy density, forest composition, and suitability of soil types will be some of the determining factors in finding ideal candidates. Additionally, this project aims to enhance deer wintering habitats in local school forest areas and public use spaces through special partner projects and Earth Day celebrations. Brock VanOss, Forest Park School District Forester, is leading the project coordination on the John Force Forest and other Forest Park School District properties. The Iron Baraga Conservation District students will continue their efforts to reach out to all schools with forest properties in Iron and Baraga County, encouraging their participation as well. Supplies will be divided between partnering schools based on the number of students participating and site composition. Provided planting supplies will include: 20 standard fruit trees, 500 count mix of wildlife shrubs, and 2,000 mixed plugs. Planting bars and guidance will be made available by the students, teachers, and staff who will implement the project. The IBCD will partner with Tap Root Community Farm Food Forest to plant 20 standard fruit trees, 250 count mix of wildlife shrubs, and 250 mixed plugs. The IBCD staff, along with the Iron Baraga FAP Forester, will reach out to qualified landowner partners through various channels. IBCD staff will provide all participating landowners with planting guides and instructions.

2. **Straits Area Sportsmen's Club:** The Straits Area Sportsmen's Club (SASC) has been approved for **\$15,000.00** for a project to continue to partner with the US Forest Service St. Ignace Ranger District to improve two forest openings totaling 13 acres in the Les Cheneaux Deer Wintering Complex in Mackinac County by woody encroachment and enhance cool season grasses and forbs to serve as deer forage opportunities. The second part of the project proposes planting soft mass fruiting shrubs (hawthorn) in wildlife openings to provide improved foraging opportunities for deer, ruffed grouse and associated wildlife species. Both projects are in the St. Ignace Ranger District Hiawatha National Forest. These areas are accessible to the public for hunting. The mechanical opening maintenance prescription will set back encroachment of woody seedlings/saplings via mastication or forestry mulcher.

SASC will provide \$2,500 to purchase soft mass native fruiting shrubs (i.e., hawthorn) along with any funds remaining from this grant. Fruiting shrubs will be planted along the perimeter of wildlife openings and protected by plastic tubes or similar material as protection from browsing. This project will benefit deer, turkeys, bears, grouse and other wildlife species.

3. **Marquette County Conservation District:** The Marquette County Conservation District (MCCD) has been approved for a **\$14,987.50** grant to improve critical deer wintering habitat within the Big Bay and Huron Mountains deer wintering complexes. MCCD will work with Lyme Great Lakes Timberlands, on properties enrolled in the CFA program. This parcel will benefit from deer habitat improvements as well as succeed in educating the public on the importance of deer habitat in the Upper Peninsula. The two sites MCCD will be working on are Lyme Greta Lakes Timberlands Big Bay site and Lyme's Halfway Hardwoods site. The Big Bay site is a hardwood/aspen stand that is being harvested in early 2025. The site contained a fair amount of top dieback amongst basswoods and mature oaks. The Halfway Hardwood site is a hardwood stand that was thinned in late winter/spring of 2024 and has lots of old trails and deer activity. The Big Bay site will have a volunteer tree planting day across 80 acres with local volunteers partnering with the Big Bay Stewardship Council assisting MCCD and Lake-to-Lake CISMA staff with planting trees (red oak, bur oak, hemlock, cedar) on the site and protecting each one from browsing. The Halfway Hardwoods site will have Atlas Contracting improve 2 miles of trails, and those trails will be seeded down with a wildlife seed mix from Pheasants Forever, and remaining trees will be planted and protected at that site across the 100 western acres of the parcel.

4. **U.P. Whitetails Association Inc., - Arnold International Deer Strip - Cannon Forestry:** The DNR has approved **\$9,759.00** for the "Arnold International Deer Strip" habitat improvement project in Delta County on lands owned by Lyme Great Lakes Timberlands LLC. U.P. Whitetails Association Inc. (UPWTA), Al Ettenhofer has sponsored this project. The property is in Delta County and is 40 acres in size. The proposed treatment project will include two sites totaling six acres. This area is a traditional migration route used heavily by deer migrating to and from yards. These outbreak fields are a critical supplement allowing deer higher nutritional browse when their resources have been depleted. Sites will be disced, seeded, fertilized, and planted with a mix of oats, white ladino clover, red clover, alfalfa, and chicory. Chicory is a good plant to inter-plant along with clovers as it has a long tap root system and holds strong during very hot dry conditions during summer months. Oats are used to help nurse other planted seeds during their first growing season. Adjacent ownership surrounding this property consists of industrial private, open to public lands, and State of Michigan.
5. **U.P. Whitetails Association Inc., - Break UP Green Project - Cannon Forestry:** The DNR has approved **\$8,127.00** for the "Break UP Green" Deer Garden" habitat improvement project in Delta County owned by Shaw Cannon. U.P. Whitetails Association Inc. (UPWTA), Al Ettenhofer has sponsored this project. The property is in Delta County and is 160 acres in size. The proposal is to treat four sites totaling five acres within the Whitefish River deer wintering complex (DWC). Sites will be disced, seeded, fertilized, and planted with a mix of oats, white ladino clover, red clover, alfalfa, and chicory. Chicory is a good plant to inter-plant along with clovers as it has a long tap root system and holds strong during very hot dry conditions during summer months. Adjacent landowners are non-industrial private and Hiawatha National Forest.
6. **U.P. Whitetails Association Inc., - Nelson's Sanctuary Project - Cannon Forestry:** The DNR has approved **\$10,500.00** for the "Nelson's Sanctuary" habitat improvement project in Delta County on 200 acres of private land. U.P. Whitetails Association Inc.

(UPWTA), Al Ettenhofer has sponsored this project. The proposed project will include one site totaling 6.5 acres. This property has a forest management plan that was developed by Cannon Forestry. The landowner is also enrolled in the conservation stewardship program within NRCS. Nelson's Sanctuary project will be dozed, disced, seeded, and fertilized. The project will be seeded with a wildlife mixture consisting of oats, white ladino clover, red clover, alfalfa and chicory. Chicory is a good plant to inter-plant along with clovers as it has a long tap root system and holds strong during very hot dry conditions during summer months. Oats will be used to help nurse other planted seeds during their first growing season. Adjacent ownership surrounding this property consists of industrial private and Lyme Great Lakes Timberlands.

7. **U.P. Whitetails Association Inc., – Pearson's Paradise Project - Cannon Forestry:** The DNR has approved **\$4,703.00** for the "Pearson's Paradise" habitat improvement project in Delta County on 160 acres of private land. U.P. Whitetails Association Inc. (UPWTA), Al Ettenhofer has sponsored this project. The proposed project will include four different sites totaling 2.5 acres. This property has a forest management plan that was developed by Cannon Forestry. The landowner is also enrolled in the conservation stewardship program within NRCS. "Pearson's Paradise" project will be dozed, disced, seeded, and fertilized. The project will be seeded with a wildlife mixture consisting of oats, white ladino clover, red clover, alfalfa and chicory. Chicory is a good plant to inter-plant along with clovers as it has a long tap root system and holds strong during very hot dry conditions during summer months. Oats will be used to help nurse other planted seeds during their first growing season. Adjacent ownership surrounding this property consists of industrial private and Delta County Forest public lands ownership.
8. **Gogebic Conservation District – Improving Habitat and Landowner Engagement in Gogebic County Project:** The DNR has approved **\$10,777.50** for enhanced early spring forage near deer wintering complexes in Gogebic County. Work will occur in the Little Girls Point DWC and Devils Creek DWC's. All sites are owned by Gogebic County and open to the public. Previously, through a long-established partnership between the Gogebic Conservation District (GCD), the Gogebic County Forestry and Parks Commission, and the Michigan DNR, previously closed logging roads and landings had been tilled and planted with perennial spring forage consisting of a hardy clover mix. Periodic mowing increases the productivity of the clover so that it may continue to provide a source of nutrition in early spring. GCD also proposes to close an additional 0.55 miles of decommissioned logging road that will be tilled and planted with a perennial spring forage mix near the Little Girls Point DWC. Previously planted areas on Gogebic County Forest land around the Little Girls Point DWC will be mowed to maintain productivity. This includes 9.84 miles of previously tilled/seeded decommissioned logging roads, and 4 acres of wildlife openings created through past DHIPI grant funding. GCD estimates 22 acres to be mowed for this portion of the project. Additionally, within the Little Girls Point DWC, GCD also proposes to close off, cultivate, and seed (with a high-quality perennial seed mixture) 0.55 miles of decommissioned timber sale access road harvested in December of 2024. This 104-acre timber sale will provide browsing in the form of hardwood regeneration and pockets of hemlock for thermal cover.

Additionally, previously planted areas on Gogebic County Forest land around the Devils Creek – Chaney Lake DWC need mowing. This includes 19.58 miles of tilled/seeded decommissioned logging roads, and 4.5 acres of wildlife openings; created through past DHIPI grant funding. GCD estimates approximately 40 acres to be mowed for this portion of the project. In total a minimum of 62 acres will be treated between both project sites.

GCD will solicit bids for the mowing and the County Forester will provide oversight of project and be responsible for all the planning and communications in the field, with professional staff time counted as match. Gogebic County Forestry and Parks will provide staff time and cover costs associated with seed bed preparation, site closure, and seeding.

9. **Alger Conservation District:** The DNR has approved **\$11,673.67** for the Alger County Deer Habitat Initiative Project in Alger County. Deer habitat improvements to these private land properties will focus on converting existing forest trails into wildlife corridors that supply a hearty quantity of herbaceous foods, soft mast fruits, and hard mast acorns to prepare wintering deer herds for the season and provide for early spring diet. Alger Conservation District (ACD) staff will work with landowners and contactors during site preparation, tree planting, wildlife openings, seedings and sign installation. The ACD project involves two project sites. Site 1 is in Alger County and involves 70 acres of ownership. Site 1 is to be treated by enhancing a wildlife corridor by planting various species of trees and shrubs as well as three acres of treated wildlife opening. The mix of species to be included are northern hardwood deciduous species, conifer species, and lowland fruiting shrubs. Forest trails on the site that function as wildlife movement corridors will be treated to prepare a proper seedbed planted to wildlife mix. Site 2 is also in Alger County. Site 2 involves treating an area of 20 acres by planting trails into wildlife corridors paired with tree and shrub plantings as well. The estimated overall acreage of seed coverage between the trail and food plots will be approximately two acres. Soils tests will determine appropriate soil amendments and fertilizer rates. Planting mixes will avoid invasive or non-naturalized species. Clover mixes, cool season mixes, native pollinator mixes or other species mixes that can persist for several growing seasons with minimal maintenance (i.e., annual mowing) or additional treatments are to be used. Chemical preparation may be necessary to adequately prepare the seedbed and remove undesirable species.
10. **U.P. Whitetails Association Inc., – Ray's Deeryard Project - Cannon Forestry:** The DNR has approved **\$5,962.00** for the "Ray's Deeryard" habitat improvement project in Delta County on 81 acres of private land. U.P. Whitetails Association Inc. (UPWTA), Al Ettenhofer has sponsored this project. The proposed project will include one site totaling three acres. This property has a forest

management plan that was developed by Cannon Forestry and is enrolled in the conservation stewardship program with NRCS. “Ray’s Deeryard” project will be disced, seeded, and fertilized. The project will be seeded with a wildlife mixture consisting of oats, white ladino clover, red clover, alfalfa and chicory. Chicory is a good plant to inter-plant along with clovers as it has a long tap root system and holds strong during very hot dry conditions during summer months. Oats will be used to help nurse other planted seeds during their first growing season. Adjacent ownership surrounding this property consists of industrial private and Hiawatha Forest Service.

11. **U.P. Whitetails Association Inc., – Secret Seeds Project - Cannon Forestry:** The DNR has approved **\$7,357.00** for the “Secret Seeds” habitat improvement project in Delta County on 100 acres of private land. U.P. Whitetails Association Inc. (UPWTA), Al Ettenhofer has sponsored this project. The proposed project will include four different sites totaling 4.5 acres. This property has a forest management plan that was developed by Cannon Forestry. This area had a strong deer population for decades during the late-80s to mid-90s. Since then, the area herd has staggered and over the last 15 years, more deer have yarded within the larger lowland swamp conifer complex east of this ownership on the MDNR properties and can greatly benefit the yarding deer within this area. “Secret Seeds” project will be disced, seeded, and fertilized. The project will be seeded with a wildlife mixture consisting of oats, white ladino clover, red clover, alfalfa and chicory. Chicory is a good plant to inter-plant along with clovers as it has a long tap root system and holds strong during very hot dry conditions during summer months. Oats will be used to help nurse other planted seeds during their first growing season. Adjacent ownership surrounding this property consists of industrial private and the State of Michigan.
12. **Ontonagon Soil Conservation District:** The DNR has approved **\$10,044.70** for the Ontonagon Conservation District’s Deer Habitat Project in Ontonagon County (Sites to be determined). The Ontonagon Soil Conservation District’s (OSDC) project is to improve winter range woody habitat through a collaborative approach, prioritizing efforts in the East Middle Branch and the Lake Gogebic Deer Wintering complexes through conifer, hard mast, and wildlife shrub and tree planting through a cooperative share program focused on private lands. Additionally, this project aims to enhance deer wintering habitats in local school forest areas and public use spaces in Ontonagon County. A total of approximately 200-400 acres will be improved. All participants will receive NRCS guidelines outlining proper planting and spacing recommendations. Landowners will be selected based on location, site suitability and willingness to cooperate.

A variety of habitat options are available for private landowners to implement and install. Options include: (1) a hard mast mixed habitat planting of small-scale oaks, wildlife fruit, and nut habitat seedlings; (2) a moist soil type mixed habitat planting of small-scale hemlock, wildlife fruit, and nut habitat seedlings; and (3) a small-scale deer orchard of standard sized malus trees, wildlife fruit, and nut habitat seedlings. Landowners will be encouraged to provide tree protectors and fencing. Special partners (i.e., district school forests, local townships and municipalities) will be encouraged to participate if they meet acreage and site requirements.

Eligible landowners will be selected based on their commitment to follow planting and maintenance protocols, the total number of contiguous acres in their parcel, and the regional deer management priorities defined by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. Preference will be given to landowners whose properties are located within deer wintering areas. The Ontonagon Soil Conservation District will acquire and distribute seedlings to partners and landowners.

13. **UP Whitetails of Dickinson County:** UP Whitetails of Dickinson County have been awarded **\$6,296.00** for the “Chestnut planning on private land in Dickinson County” in Dickinson County (Sites to be determined). The intent of this project with UPW of Dickinson County is to provide a hard mast food resource throughout Dickinson County for white-tailed deer and other species. The project will use funds to plant Dunstan Chestnut trees on private property in Dickinson County and to protect previously planted trees and shrubs from prior grant projects. UPW currently has three years of trees and shrubs planted through this grant and many of the individual stems are out growing their tree tubes. UPW will use the requested grant money to replace existing smaller tree tubes with larger deer fencing enclosures to promote growth while protecting the plants from deer and other mammalian browsing.

Ten landowners with 20+ acres in Dickinson County would receive four chestnut trees each. This will be a continuation of the tree planting program UPW has run for three years. Trees to be planted will be saplings of three feet in height which have a higher survival probability compared to smaller size saplings. Dunstan Chestnut trees will be sourced from a Florida nursery because no local Michigan nursery currently has chestnut trees of this variety in stock. Additionally, UPW is using Chestnut Hill Nursery because they strive to maintain the best genetics for chestnuts. American Chestnut genetics are derived from the entire native chestnut range and are also mixed with Chinese Chestnut to provide blight resistance. A total of ten landowners will be drawn for tree planting to maintain a reasonable workload as well as the ability to monitor success rate for each planting for years to come. This project is designed to test the feasibility of chestnuts as large-scale hard mast tree planting species replacement in areas impacted by oak wilt.

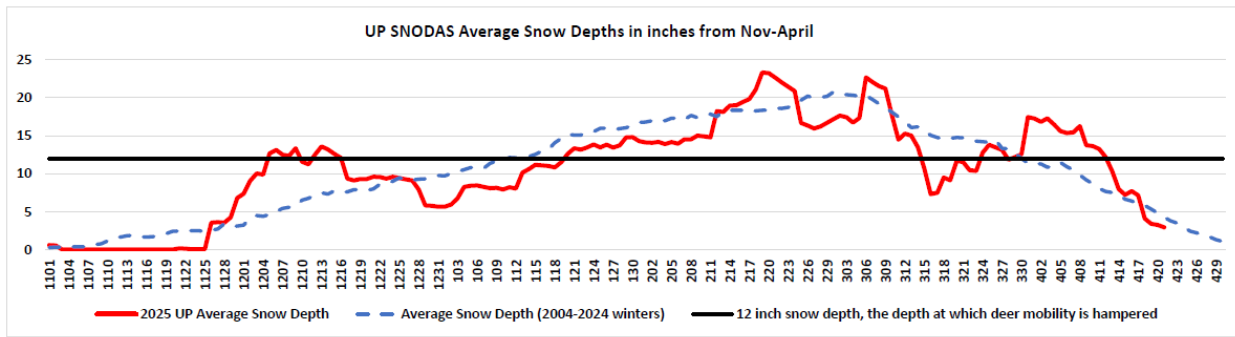
14. **Burt Township Schools/ Alger Conservation District:** The DNR has approved **\$10,673.67** for the “School Forest Habitat Improvement Project in Alger County (T49N, R13W Section 2). The project was authored by a Burt Township student and Alger Conservation District (ACD) will administer the project. Burt Township Schools superintendent and principal will coordinate

implementation of the project between ACD and the student author. The author will be heavily involved in all aspects of the planning, coordination, implementation, documentation, reporting and publicity of the project. This project aims to improve deer habitat conditions in approximately 600 acres of school forest. Work will involve the planting of a variety of native trees and shrubs to provide cover and food sources, create bedding areas, and establish high nutritional value food plots. The project will focus on tree planting to bolster forest diversity and improve hard and soft mast production. For the tree planting portion of the project, the following species will be planted: cedar, wild plum, white oak, red osier dogwood, black cherry, crab and other varieties of apples and fruit trees, red oak, hazelnut, and chestnut.

15. **Ruffed Grouse Society:** The Ruffed Grouse Society has been awarded **\$7,450.00** for the maintenance and rehabilitation of existing logging roads and hunter walking trails in Iron County on land owned and managed by Lyme Great Lakes Timberlands (formerly owned by Weyerhaeuser). There are two management units within this project including the Gold Mine GEMS which includes 890 acres of huntable land and 2.5 miles of restored skid trails which now function as hunter walking trails. The Gold Mine GEMS consists primarily of aspen with lowland conifer and other upland deciduous species. The hunter walking trails are surrounded by eight different age classes of aspen, with gated access throughout the GEMS. There is also an established parking area with an informational kiosk and map for recreational users. Fruit bearing shrubs have been planted as a supplemental wildlife food source throughout the trail network. Proposed work at the Gold Mine GEMS will include the restoration and maintenance treatment of 2.5 miles of hunter walking trails within 540 acres. The second management unit is the Bates-Amasa complex in Iron County where one mile of hunter walking trail will be re-established among 156 acres. There has been a recent clearcut of aspen surrounding half of the trail. The site consists of northern hardwood with aspen inclusions throughout. There are also two vernal ponds and two 1-acre openings. The two wildlife openings will also be restored. There is gated access off the Bates Amasa Road and an information kiosk and parking area for recreational users. Each of the proposed trails and openings have not been maintained for several years since they last received DHIPI Funding. The total project cost is \$11,435.00 with a 35% match of \$4,000 from Ruffed Grouse Society.

The DHIPI selection committee is composed of Bill Scullon (FOM and DHIPI program Administrator), Don Brown (Shingleton Wildlife Biologist), John Pepin (UP Communications Deputy) and Jason Caron (UP Service Forester). I'd like to recognize Don, John, and Jason for their diligence in reviewing all the applications and helping to shape the outcomes of each grant so our partners can be successful.

- **WLD Contributing to Northern Lower Peninsula Ice Storm Damage Response:** The forest damage caused by the ice storm in the NLP has been massive, Department resources from all over the state have been leveraged to help with the cleanup. Wildlife Division has sent equipment and personnel from across the UP to assist. Efforts have been focused on opening access within the NLP state forest where roads and trails were impassable. The concentrated effort has been lessening as the end of June, but the cleanup effort will continue for years to come. Staff from Baraga, Marquette, Escanaba, and the Sault have all rotated on clean up sawyer crews and as equipment operators. Multiple pieces of equipment for the UP have been used on the work (i.e., dump trucks / trailers and skid steers with grapples)
- **Habitat Work Preparations Continue:** Despite the delayed spring break up in many locations WLD staff continue are actively working on habitat projects. Hundreds of tree planting projects including various species of oak saplings grown in our Wyman nursery. Spring Prescribed Fire plans were paused as many FRD fire staff and WLD staff were redirected in the short term to help in the NLP ice storm clean up. However, at the end of June Prescribed Burning efforts we rejoined, and burns were completed in Menominee and North Iron Counties. Summer burning plans are underway. Wildfire response staffing was busy this past spring with nearly all the UP's wildlife staff being fire qualified actively participating. This adds capacity to our department burn program and helps to keep cost down and enable us to normally accomplish more habitat burns as well as bolster wildfire response.
- **Winter Severity Impact on Wildlife:** The 2024-25 winter has come to an end. The duration of "deep" snow week for the winter is 83 days of snow depths of >12 inches and the long-term average duration of 78 days. Wildlife staff continue to monitor winter weather impacts. Dave Jentoft and Caleb Eckloff run the SNODAS modeling which tracks snow coverage and duration across the whole UP using NAOO data. Snow level of 12 inches in combination with duration of more than 90 days is something we watch closely as this will push winter into a severe category. We ended the winter below the 90-day threshold for what we would characterize as a severe winter.



- **Bat/White Nose Syndrome (WNS) Update (from John DePue):** Based on our underground bat survey work, population declines have stabilized and are starting to slowly increase from historic lows due to WNS. Even though some hibernacula are seeing increases, bats are still dying from the disease. We continue to work on a joint project with MTU to identify ideal hibernation conditions for bats to mitigate the impacts of WNS in Michigan. It has been a cold spring, but bats are now starting to emerge from hibernation and move across the landscape looking for insects (although few insects are present at the time of this writing) and summer roosting locations.
- **Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI):** HPAI cases are now confirmed in domestic birds, wild birds, and wild mammals throughout most of North America. Since late February 2022, Michigan has experienced die-offs in wild birds and mammals across the state due to HPAI. Monitoring of sick and dead wildlife for HPAI continues and the disease is considered widespread and endemic across Michigan and North America. The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development continues to take swift action in response to this disease and is closely monitoring and responding to reports of sick domestic birds and HPAI throughout the state. HPAI has caused extensive illness and death in a range of wild bird species across North America. Waterfowl, raptors, scavengers, gulls and terns have been affected. The DNR is focusing its surveillance efforts by prioritizing testing dead birds from die-offs of six or more birds, as well as bald eagles, and abnormal acting hawks, owls, and wild mammals. Please visit the HPAI section within the MIDNR website including the Frequently Asked Questions portion. <https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/managing-resources/wildlife/wildlife-disease/disease-monitoring/avian-influenza-updates>
- **Moose Project Monitoring:** Staff have been actively tracking and observing moose that were radio collared this past winter. of the 10 adult cows radio collared 8 have given birth with at least four having twins. Mortality has been documented with at least one newborn calf being predated by a bear. Staff have been working with co-research partners from Keweenaw Bay Indian Community using their drone to track and observe behaviors and preproduction success while minimizing disturbance. This new drone technology couple with GPS collars is providing opportunities to capture new perspectives and insights that previously were unavailable. UPR region staff recently acquired a drone for wildlife monitoring and habitat work. Joe sage the biologist in Escanaba will be the pilot and regional coordinate. The drone with have thermal and video imaging capability.
- **Goose Banding:** Staff are actively engaged on banding Canada Geese across the UP. Our banding quota is 300 birds. This year’s efforts will focus on the Baraga, Escanaba, and Sault units. Banding data supports USFS waterfowl management efforts and helps monitor populations and harvest trends. Preliminary reports indicate it was a very favorable and early nesting season for ducks and geese and local production appears to be high and a couple weeks ahead of normal schedule.
- **Wildlife Interactions and Encounters:** The spring breeding season is in full swing and baby wildlife are becoming increasingly visible. Fawn production appears to be good to high in some areas of the UP. As the weeks progress, they become increasingly mobile and more visible. The public is reminded to leave you wildlife they encounter alone and call the DNR is they have concerns or questions. Under no circumstances should they pick or otherwise take into position of any baby critters. This usually has negative consequences for the wildlife involved as providing legal and qualified care is not as easy and people often think.

Nuisance bear reports are in full swing, and people are reminded to remove attractants from their yards. Please call your local a DNR office if you are having nuisance bear issues.

An interesting wildlife species was encountered in the Sault unit in Chippewa County and a road killed armadillo was photographed and verified. This is very far north on their endemic range. The animal likely hitchhiked here in some type of commercial cargo (this has been documented before with opossums in Keweenaw County hitchhiking in a semi-load of hay bales).

Law Enforcement Division (LED): Lt. Ryan Aho, District 1 Law Supervisor– Western UP

- **COs Byron Parks and Brian Lasanen** gave a presentation for the Copper Country Intermediate School District (CCISD) at Camp Nesbit. The CCISD runs a summer program at Camp Nesbit that helps cognitively impaired people experience camping for an entire week. CO Parks and Lasanen talked about what a Conservation Officer is, their duties, answered questions, and showed the campers their patrol vehicle and equipment inside.
- **CO Pete Shambaugh** was dispatched to a call with an Ontonagon County Sheriff's deputy of an intoxicated individual who was threatening harm to himself. He advised that if any police showed up, he would shoot them. Upon arrival, family members of the individual were able to secure weapons but also stated he ingested the rest of his prescription pills. The subject was still belligerent when the officers arrived. CO Shambaugh was able to calm the subject down. Knowing the individual from prior contacts, while the subject has been fishing and hunting in the past, assisted in being able to defuse the situation. Eventually, due to a combination of prior health conditions, ingestion of substances, and being intoxicated the subject was transported to the ER.
- **CO Alex VanWagner** checked a boat with four anglers bass fishing on Hagerman Lake in Iron County. Upon contact, two of the anglers admitted they did not have valid fishing licenses and citations were issued for the violations.
- **CO Alex VanWagner** conducted a traffic stop on an ATV in Iron River for failing to operate on the extreme right of the roadway and no ORV sticker. A citation was issued for failing to license the ORV.
- **CO Alex VanWagner** conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle traveling 79 mph in a 55-mph zone. The vehicle also had an expired registration. A citation was issued for speeding, and a verbal warning was given for the registration violation.
- **CO Steve Sajtar** assisted with a hunter safety class at Normenco Sportsman's Club in Menominee County. CO Sajtar helped teach the students the importance of safe and ethical hunting. Additionally, CO Sajtar taught the students what roles and responsibilities Michigan Conservation Officers have while on patrol.
- In Menominee County, **CO Steve Sajtar** observed a vehicle being operated on a public roadway with an expired registration. CO Sajtar conducted a traffic stop and contacted the driver. It was determined the driver was returning from a salmon fishing tournament and was transporting salmon fillets to his residence. After checking several coolers within the vehicle, the driver was found in possession of an over-limit of salmon. Enforcement action was taken.
- **CO Phil Helminen and Sgt. Brian Bacon** responded to a call from Dickinson County Dispatch of a boat that had lost power while out on a river. The COs responded in a boat and located the broken-down boat and assisted them to a boat launch nearby. The COs then gave the boat owner a ride back to his vehicle at another boat launch so he could retrieve his boat.
- **CO Phil Helminen and Sgt. Brian Bacon** assisted the Dickinson County Sheriff's Office with a search for a 17- and 18-year-old who were lost in a remote part of the county on an extremely hot day. The two had traveled down a two-track road looking for an off-road rally race that was going on and they became stuck in a swamp with their vehicle. They then left the vehicle to get cell phone service to call 911 when the battery died on their phone. The COs were able to locate the two several miles away from their vehicle. The COs provided them water and transported them back to their vehicle, where the Sheriff's Office assisted them in getting their vehicle out of the swamp.
- **CO Phil Helminen** was on marine patrol when he stopped a boat with an expired boat registration. While speaking with the occupants on the boat, CO Helminen discovered that they did not have personal floatation devices on board for anyone on the boat. The boat driver stated they did not look to see if they had any before going out. Enforcement action was taken.
- **COs John Kamps and District 5 CO Tyler Sabuda** worked together on an investigation which involved ORV trespass and malicious destruction of property (MDOP) to a camp gate. With the help of the complainant, the COs were able to identify the suspect and conduct an interview. A full confession was obtained for trespass and MDOP. The complainant and the suspect are now working together, civilly, to fix the destroyed gate.

Fisheries Division: Darren Kramer, Northern Lake Michigan Management Unit

Field Management Update

- Lake Superior Management Unit
 1. Field staff conducted Status and Trends lake surveys on Marten Lake (Iron Co), Misty Lake (Gogebic Co), and Hemlock Lake (Gogebic Co).
 2. Field staff surveyed several reaches on the Traverse River (Houghton Co) before the Sea Lamprey barriers were removed for the season.

3. Lake Superior and Northern Lake Michigan Management Unit field staff collaborated on surveying multiple stations on the Black River (Gogebic Co).
 4. Lake Superior and Northern Lake Michigan Management Unit field staff conducted discretionary stream surveys on East and West Branch of the Firesteel River (Ontonagon Co), East Branch of the Ontonagon River (Onto Co), and Eliza Creek (Keweenaw Co).
 5. Field staff completed moving and annual visual inspections of Black River and Boston Pond dams.
 6. Field staff collected smallmouth bass for contaminant testing from Silver Lake Basin (Marquette Co). This effort is part of the agreement to monitor fish populations in the Dead River watershed following the dam failures in the early 2000's.
 7. Field staff finished aging walleye structures from Lake Gratiot (Keweenaw Co) from the spring walleye population estimate.
 8. Staff worked with EGLE to complete a joint permit application for Traverse Harbor dredging. Dredging is expected to take place in fall 2025.
 9. Staff participated in the Salmon in the Classroom release event in Baraga. Fisheries staff offered an overview of fisheries management and shared some information on sampling techniques used by our crews. Several schools were involved with the release of Chinook salmon they reared through the school year.
 10. Michigan DNR Fisheries staff from Northern Lake Michigan Management Unit, Lake Superior Management Unit, and Tribal Coordination Unit met with staff from Wisconsin DNR to discuss border water topics and sampling coordination efforts. Staff met at the Norway office in June and will continue to communicate on a variety of topics regarding Michigan/Wisconsin border waters.
 11. Staff met with Keweenaw Sportsman's Club July 17th. Topics of discussion were walleye protected slot limit proposals, Chinook salmon, and splake.
- *Northern Lake Michigan Management Unit*
 1. Technician staff completed Status and Trends fisheries and habitat surveys on Winslow Lake, Brule Lake, and Grand Rapids Impoundment (Menominee River) and a bass survey on Little Smokey Lake in June.
 2. Spring fingerling walleye were harvested from unit and co-op ponds in June and early July and stocked in inland waters across the Upper Peninsula and northern Green Bay. Thanks to LSMU technicians for assisting with egg take, rearing, harvest, and stocking activities.
 3. Staff attended the MI-WI Boundary Waters meeting in June. This meeting gathers fisheries management staff from Michigan and Wisconsin to discuss issues and management of shared Menominee River boundary waters.
 4. NLMMU staff completed annual unit dam inspections in June and July along with annual dam maintenance activities.

Research Section

- Marquette Fisheries Research Station
 1. The spring lake trout survey on Lake Superior was completed.
 2. The Lake Char crew is now prepping vessel to start survey of Big Reef (north of Munising) in June.
 3. Staff spent time at Isle Royale helping acclimate creel clerks to the island and surrounding waters. A second trip was made out to install a new radar unit on one of the work boats and repair a gas tank vent on another.
 4. Lake sturgeon spawning finally concluded on Black River with over 400 adults captured in total this year.
 5. PIT (Passive Integrated Transponder) tag antennas in the Whitefish and Cedar rivers continue to detect stocked lake sturgeon, including individuals that were stocked in 2007.

Fish Production Section

- Marquette State Fish Hatchery
 1. All production fingerlings have been moved outside and will be reared until their release next spring.
 2. Spring stocking has concluded after stocking 120,000 lake trout, 70,000 brook trout, and 190,000 splake.
 3. Three Arctic grayling egg takes were held in late April/early May resulting in about 800,000 eggs being transferred to our tribal partners to be placed in in-stream incubators in the Maple, Boardman and Manistee Rivers. Reports have been good thus far with hatching occurring shortly after transfer and fry observed around the in-stream incubators.
 4. A construction project to replace the brood isolation building and update the HVAC system for the main hatchery has started. Because of this, the hatchery will be closed to the public until the project is completed. The project is scheduled to be completed by early October.
 5. The hatchery is fully staffed once again after recent employee retirements, promotions, and departures.

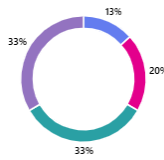
- Thompson State Fish Hatchery
 1. The yearling muskellunge harvested total was 1,141 from the overwintered pond, and the fish were harvested in June. They were 11.3” in total length, tagged, and were stocked out downstate in lakes that will be utilized as broodstock lakes in the future.
 2. Spring fingerling walleye were harvested in June from the coolwater ponds. Approximately 70,400 fish were harvested and stocked around to U.P. inland waters.
 3. Capital improvement funding was provided to the State Fish Hatcheries to make infrastructure repairs and biosecurity improvements on deferred facility maintenance. As projects get through complete design and bids come in, the estimates provided from the design consultants and construction managers were too low. A fair number of hatchery projects will likely not be funded around the State. On the plus side these facilities will have stamped designs for future opportunities. As it relates to Thompson State Fish Hatchery, all projects that were to get started or bid out have been put on hold.

Facilities and Operations Division: Sean Sundholm, WUP Administrative Area Manager

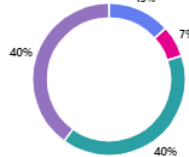
- The new roofing project for the Crystal Falls Field Office has begun. UP Architects and Engineers (UPAE) was the best value bidder chosen for phase 100 study. We have had a 90% design meeting. A design has been chosen, and funding sources are being explored in order to proceed with project.
- Customer service centers are in the middle of the 2025 license season and are in full swing with trail permits, ORV licenses, state park passport sales and fishing licenses.
- Along with daily operations, many of our western UP staff have been engaged on committees looking at future customer service needs.
- Area managers have been working on developing and completing multiple minor construction projects (LED lighting, solar applications, general facility renovations, health, and safety improvements) throughout the state.
- The Escanaba Customer Service Center had a contractor pre-bid walkthrough on April 15 for a 2,000 square foot solar panel array project for the building. Harvest solar is the contractor and a design review meeting has been scheduled for September.
- All of the WUP customer service centers and field offices are fully staffed.

Parks & Recreation Division: Doug Rich, WUP District Supervisor

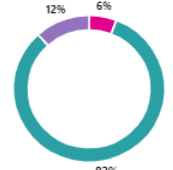
Camping

Bewabic State Park	106 of our 130 campsites are currently closed for construction of a new toilet/shower building.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Up 2 ● Down 3 ● Similar to the same period last year 5 ● Closed / N/A 5 
Escanaba Field Office	Unit staff finalized an armoring project along the shoreline and completed shoreline restoration at J.W. Wells State Park. Staff also assisted other units in completing projects such as culvert installations, material hauling, and equipment operation. Staff also responded to ice storm cleanup efforts in the lower peninsula, assisting with campground cleanup.	
Baraga Field Office	Assisted by the National Guard with construction projects at Craig Lake, Big Lake and King Lake. The crew went down to Atlanta, MI to assist local parks with storm clean up after the ice storm.	
Craig Lake State Park	Backcountry camping was up this past May/June, partly due to keeping the campsites open during the work being completed by the Michigan Army National Guard in early June. Visitors began camping as soon as the park opened in mid-May, also contributing to a higher number of camps for this timeframe.	
Fort Wilkins Historic State Park	Down due to ARPA construction closures and overall attendance seems to be slowing. We have also expanded Wi-Fi for the entire campground.	
Lake Gogebic Field Construction Crew	The crew rebuilt the sanitation station at Baraga State Park in May to allow for improved traffic flow.	
Baraga State Park	Camping has been like last season with usage being busy heading into the end of June. SFCG's have also been busy. Camp nights at Big Eric's Bridge have been up by 6%.	
Twin Lakes State Park	The campground is closed due to construction of a new toilet shower building, sewage system, and paving.	


Overnight Lodging

Baraga Field Office	Installed drain tile around the small cabin at Craig Lake	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Up 2 ● Down 1 ● Similar to last year 6 ● Closed / N/A 6 
Fort Wilkins Historic State Park	Added Wi-Fi to Lake Fanny Hooe Cabin	
Little Presque Isle State Forest Recreation Area	Overnight lodging is up about 3% from this same timeframe last year.	
Lake Gogebic Field Construction Crew	The crew partnered with the Michigan Army National Guard and Van Riper staff in May and June to perform improvements at the Small Cabin in Craig Lake Park. Improvements included new siding, roofing, doors, windows, soffit, fascia, flooring, and tongue and groove interior. The Lake Gogebic Field Construction Crew made improvements to the Mini Cabin at Twin Lakes State Park in June. Improvements included new flooring and stain.	
Twin Lakes State Park	Mini cabin is closed for the season, as it is within the boundary of the campground and subject to closure due to the campground improvements being made this season. During which, the closure time is being utilized to renovate. It is still amid renovations, including new door and windows, trim, roofing, and painting on the exterior, and new flooring and trim on the interior.	
Craig Lake State Park	Overnight lodging was down just slightly due to closures to both cabins within Craig Lake State Park during all of May and the first half of June for the Michigan Army National Guard Partnership Training.	

Boating Access Sites and Harbors

Baraga State Park	BAS sites have been busy. Vermillac and Parent Lake BAS had parking lot work done by the MIARNG during the IRT in early June.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Up 0 ● Down 1 ● Similar to last year 14 ● Closed / N/A 2 
Baraga Field Office	Assisted National Guard with construction projects at Vermillac Lake and Parent Lake.	
Copper Harbor / Eagle Harbor / Lac La Belle	Low water is making for some challenges.	
Escanaba Field Office	Staff graded and added gravel to unit access sites, and many other district sites, and assisted other units with access site repairs, as well as opening vault toilets that were damaged due to vandalism.	

Trails

Baraga Field Office	Fixed culvert washout on BN trail in Mass City	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Up 1 ● Down 0 ● Similar to last year 13 ● Closed / N/A 3 
Little Presque Isle State Forest Recreation Area	Trail usage throughout the Little Presque Isle State Forest is about the same as the previous year. Continued trail work has been a goal for both the Van Riper State Park staff and the Friends of Harlow (more on that in a later section).	
Baraga State Park	ORV camping and trail use has been high along with use of the non-motorized trail to Baraga. Having ORV route access behind the campground has reduced some issues with ORV's traveling through the park and on the highway, but people are still learning about the new route as ORV maps and apps from other sources and some online data are not all up to date. We have had a couple of large ORV groups in the park.	



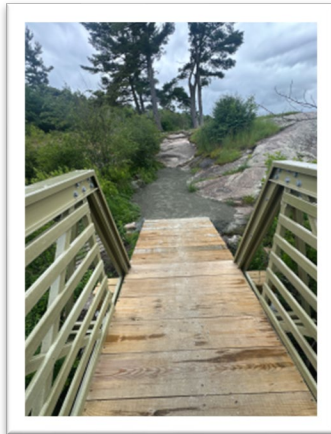
Day Use

McLain State Park	McLain State Park Playground installation occurred June 3rd - 6th in collaboration with the National Guard.	● Up	2	
Bewabic State Park	Bewabic Day use is down due to fewer campers with Bewabic's B and C loops closed for construction.	● Down	2	
Fort Wilkins Historic State Park	Day use visitation is also slowing down. New exhibit added to Fort Complex, History of Fort Wilkins State Park	● Similar to last year	12	
Baraga State Park	We had two local schools do a "Salmon in the Classroom" program and release salmon fingerlings in Hazel Creek in the day use area. PRD, Fish and FRD along with the school all did different activity stations for the 100+ students, teachers and guests that participated in the event to improve the fishery in Keweenaw Bay.	● Closed / N/A	3	



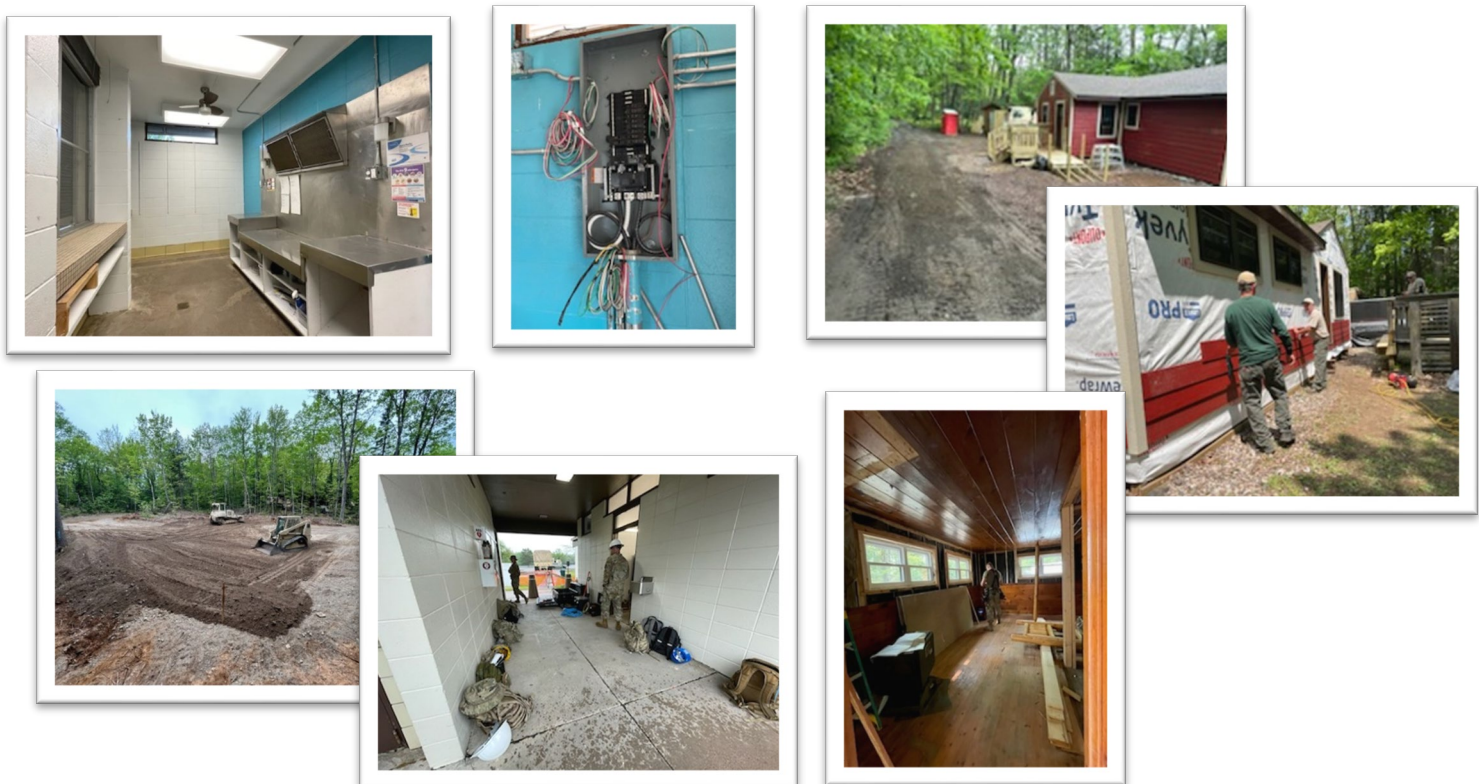
Design, Construction, Capital Outlay and ARPA Projects

Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park	ARPA, we have occupancy of the Visitor's Center modernization project and opened it to the public in mid-June.
McLain State Park	The Houghton-Douglass Falls entry road and parking lot construction is progressing. This work is being performed by the Baraga major maintenance crew. The contract has been awarded for the ADA trail and bridge installation.
Bewabic State Park	The new drain field and septic tanks are in, as well as the footings for the new toilet shower building!
Menominee River State Recreation Area	A bid was accepted and construction of a new bridge and boardwalk at Piers Gorge is scheduled to begin September 2nd, 2025
Baraga Field Office	Construction at Houghton Douglas Falls has been going well. We are on track, looking to be completed with our portion of the project by the end of July, and turn over to contractor to continue with phase one.
Little Presque Isle State Forest Recreation Area	Work continues for the existing trail system within the Little Presque Isle State Forest. The contractor has returned and is continuing to work on bridges, boardwalks, and sections of trail resurfacing as directed by the contract. The Harlow Lake Fishing Pier has been repaired, due to some tree damage, and is completed and open for visitors to fish from into Harlow Lake.
Van Riper State Park	The Van Riper Wastewater Study is continuing to progress with consultants coming out and completing tasks outlined within the contract. This study is intended to assist Van Riper State Park staff in aligning our wastewater operation with the new requirements outlined by EGLE. This will be an ongoing study and will include the taking of wastewater samples prior to the park shutting down for the season.
Fort Wilkins Historic State Park	New Toilet and Shower building opened June 23.
Lake Gogebic State Park	Bids were received and reviewed for the upcoming ARPA campground improvement project scheduled to begin in August. Work scopes include electrical upgrades, site drainage improvements, and construction of new pull-through sites.
Baraga State Park	The curbing project at the sanitation station was completed. The concrete was shortened, and this improved the turning radius for the larger campers and waiting area for campers. Staff have been preparing for MIARNG IRT projects at the park. They will be re-roofing the park headquarters.
Twin Lakes State Park	The Twin Lakes construction kickoff meeting was held 6/25/25. This ARPA project includes the replacement of the campground toilet/shower building, sewer system replacement, and campground road paving.



Special Events, Volunteer Projects, Accomplishments, Challenges or Personnel News

Bond Falls Scenic Site	We had three event permit weddings during May and June. All STW staff have been hired and trained.
Bewabic State Park	The lead ranger position at Bewabic State Park posted for the sixth time recently. This position has been difficult to fill to say the least.
Menominee River State Recreation Area	Seasonal ranger position continues to be vacant.
Little Presque Isle State Forest Recreation Area	The Friends of Harlow held their Bi-Annual Work bee at the beginning of May and worked to clear trails for the season. The group had over 40 volunteers who each put in about 4 hours of work to help prepare our trails for the season! A huge THANK YOU to the Friends of Harlow for their hard work and dedication to the trail system at Little Presque Isle!
Van Riper State Park	Van Riper State Park has the unique opportunity to host the 107th Engineer Battalion of the Michigan Army National Guard for its annual 2025 Innovative Readiness Training. This ongoing partnership gives the National Guard Soldiers an opportunity to train in technical skills while completing meaningful work within Michigan State Parks. While here at Van Riper State Park, part of the 3rd platoon (the vertical platoon, who specializes in skilled trades such as electrical, plumbing, and carpentry), made some much-needed electrical repairs to the Day use Beach Building within the park. The part of the building they worked in houses the park's concessionaires, Simple Adventures. THANK YOU to all the National Guard soldiers that worked to make improvements that will last years!
Craig Lake State Park	Craig Lake State Park had another opportunity to host the 107th Engineer Battalion of the Michigan Army National Guard to complete the renovation of the Small Cabin and road work and culvert installation within the park. One horizontal platoon (road work) was assigned to Craig Lake State Park to complete culvert installation, the development of an additional parking lot, and installation of safety turnouts along the Craig Lake Road. A second horizontal crew was assigned to various boating access sites, state forest campgrounds and an ORV trailhead to complete aggregate resurfacing of the roadways at each respective location, in Baraga County. The Small Cabin was renovated by a handful of soldiers from 3rd platoon (vertical trades) within the 2 week timeframe. All projects turned out beautiful and have already received many compliments from the visiting public as well as our staff from both Van Riper and Craig Lake State Parks. Thank you for allowing us to host you and we are eager to continue to our partnership for many years to come! This work would not have been completed without the front-loaded help of the Lake Gogebic Crew, Dan Talkowski and Charlie Perttu, Craig Lake Ranger, Matena Coron, and all other rangers and staff from Van Riper State Park. Thank you for your hard work and dedication to our resources and making our parks a little better every day.
Baraga State Park	The park has three MRS students and 1 coach working at the park this season. All career and non-career positions are filled. We are having some difficulties with filling host positions as we have had some hosts that had to back out of accepted positions for health reasons. We are working to try to fill these vacancies.



Forest Resources Division: Tom Seablom, Western UP District Supervisor

- Field work for the 2027 YOE (Year of Entry) Inventory season has wrapped up. The Gwinn Open House is scheduled for September 23 at the Gwinn Field Office and the Escanaba Open House is scheduled for September 30 at the Spalding Township Hall. Open House and Compartment Review schedules for the 2027 YOE are posted online under the Public Input section along with other state forest inventory information at: www.michigan.gov/forestinput.
- As of July 14, 315 timber sale contracts are open western UP (WUP)-wide. This represents 1,037,723 cords of timber on 57,262 acres, valued at approximately \$36.5 million. Included in this are 27 GNA sales representing 135,276 cords of timber on 7,272 acres, valued at approximately \$4.1 million. As of July 14, 12 sales are available WUP-wide for the minimum advertised price. This represents 27,701 cords of timber. Find more information on state forest timber sales at: www.michigan.gov/timber.
- WUP units are reporting 23 active timber sales totaling about 2,610 acres. Demand is fairly strong. Winter sales are receiving little interest as there is still a surplus of winter accessible sales.
- Commercial forest staff are working on wrapping up inspections on new commercial forest applications, following up with reports on potential commercial forest compliance issues, and processing cutting notifications. For more information on the commercial forest program go to: www.michigan.gov/commercialforest.
- Forest cultivation staff in the WUP reported 300 acres of tree plantings this spring. Currently, staff are working on site preparation work on about 1,200 acres that will be planted in the next 2 years.
- Utilization and marketing staff report statewide timber markets are still trending downward with more questions than answers. No bid timber sales are up statewide over last year. The west UP has not felt this as much as the east UP and the lower peninsula due to all the salvage cutting from the ice storms. Markets are flooded with red pine but lack in hardwood sawlogs. Hardwood pulp markets are still very low. On the bright side, LP Building Solutions is seeing increased demand for smart siding and their other products, and projections for the next few years are looking good.
- Fire protection staff report Year to date fires in the Upper Peninsula, 33 fires which have burned 69.8 acres. Two prescribed fires were accomplished in the Escanaba unit treating a total of 96 acres. To date 47 people from the state have been dispatched to assist with wildfires in Texas, North Carolina, Manitoba, Alaska, California, Colorado, and Montana.

Executive Division: John Pepin, Deputy Public Information Officer

- I am looking for DNR summer and fall events to photograph across the Upper Peninsula. Events could be anything from construction project completions to park camper events or local celebrations that include the DNR. If something like this is happening this summer or fall, please contact me at pepinj@michigan.gov or 906-226-1352.

Parks & Recreation Division-UP Trails: Ron Yesney, UP Trails Coordinator

Trail Specialist: Rob Katona, Central Upper Peninsula

Project Name: ORV Route Improvements & Grading Alger, Delta, Marquette, Menominee, and Dickinson Counties	Project Name: AuTrain River Bridge Repairs ORV C Route & Snowmobile Trail 418	Project Name: Nahma Grade Multi-use Trail	Project Name: Clowry Grade Bridge #6
Description: Multiple projects for filling holes, grading, gravel surfacing, culvert replacement and minor bridge repairs with multiple grades planned in high use areas to help prevent rough routes.	Description: Perform phase 100 study to determine necessary repairs. Bridge was closed in 2024 due to slumping and safety concerns.	Description: Design and construction 3.7 mile multi-use Rail-Trail in Delta County work includes clearing, surfacing and culvert/bridge installation.	Description: Design and rehab/construction of multiple bridges on this designated ORV/snowmobile multi-use Rail-Trail in Marquette County.
Trail Use: Rail Trails & ORV Routes	Trail Use: Rail Trails	Trail Use: Rail Trails	Trail Use: Rail Trails
Anticipated Completion: Summer/Fall 2025	Anticipated Completion: TBD	Anticipated Completion: Fall 2024	Anticipated Completion: TBD

Q3 Update: All projects have been awarded and work continues along with second grades for the season on busier route segments.	Q3 Update: Bridge removal will begin mid-July and still working on design plans and securing additional funding for construction.	Q3 Update: Bids are due for gravel surfacing mid-July.	Q3 Update: No new updates.
---	--	---	-------------------------------

Project Name: Clowry Grade Bridges #1, #4, #5 & #7.	Project Name: Little Presque Isle Rec Area Improvements	Project Name: Days River Single Track Trail Construction	Project Name: Central U.P. ORV Route Dust Control
Description: Design and rehab/construction of multiple bridges on this designated ORV/snowmobile multi-use Rail-Trail in Marquette County.	Description: Trail repairs, parking improvements and boardwalk/bridge repairs throughout 42 sites at LPI recreation area and Wetmore pond.	Description: Approximately 10 miles of single track trail construction designed for mountain bike use.	Description: Perform dust control at multiple sites on ORV routes to prevent dust caused by ORV traffic in residential areas and other areas meeting criteria. Two treatments planned one for spring and one late summer or early fall.
Trail Use: Rail Trails	Trail Use: Nonmotorized & mountain bike	Trail Use: Nonmotorized & mountain bike	Trail Use: ORV
Anticipated Completion: TBD	Anticipated Completion: Spring 2025	Anticipated Completion: TBD	Anticipated Completion: Summer/fall 2025
Q3 Update: No new updates.	Q3 Update: Final bridge has been completed; finishing up punch list items.	Q3 Update: Field work is occurring with the archeological survey just being completed for SHPO 106 submittal. Environmental submittals will follow additional field work.	Q3 Update: First treatments are complete with second treatment for CUP sites scheduled for August-September.

Project Name: Tyoga Pathway Bridges	Project Name: LPI Songbird Trail and Harlow Creek Bridges	Project Name: Laughing Whitefish Falls Bridge	Project Name: Genes Pond Pathway
Description: Replace one bridge and replace or rehab second bridge both spanning the Laughing Whitefish River.	Description: Replace two popular pedestrian bridges on the LPI songbird trail and pathway to cabin #6 and north trail system.	Description: New pedestrian bridge construction on NCT over Laughing Whitefish River at the Laughing Whitefish Falls Natural Area.	Description: Construction of 1.75 mile accessible pathway with scenic overlooks adjacent to state forest campground located near Ralph in Dickinson County.
Trail Use: Nonmotorized	Trail Use: Nonmotorized	Trail Use: Nonmotorized	Trail Use: Nonmotorized
Anticipated Completion: TBD	Anticipated Completion: TBD	Anticipated Completion: TBD	Anticipated Completion: TBD
Q3 Update: No new updates.	Q3 Update: No new updates.	Q3 Update: No new updates.	Q3 Update: Pre-bid meeting will be held on-site August 10.

Project Name: Norway Trail Improvements	Project Name: Holli Yard Restoration
Description: Trail improvements at multiple sites, work includes surfacing areas prone to washout, hole filling, installing dips and repairs where beaver have impacted the trail.	Description: Repair a segment of snowmobile trail 8 to improve trail freeze-in and prevent wet/muddy conditions during thaws. Work will also provide an improved surface for ORVs and prevent adjacent wetland impact.
Trail Use: ORV	Trail Use: Snowmobile
Anticipated Completion: Summer 2026	Anticipated Completion: Late Fall 2025
Q3 Update: Received bids and awarded contract; work has just started.	Q3 Update: Currently seeking cost estimates and grant funding for project.

PROPOSAL: Hiawatha NF ORV Routes Proposal	PROPOSAL: Ishpeming-Negaunee-Sands ORV Routes Proposal	PROPOSAL: Negaunee ORV Extension	PROPOSAL: Little Lake – Chatham RR grade ORV Route Proposal	PROPOSAL: Eagle Mills-Gwinn-Little Lake ORV Route Proposal
Description: Nearly 100 miles of ORV routes proposed to be designated that would provide connectivity and looped riding across Marquette, Delta, Alger and Schoolcraft Counties.	Description: ORV routes that would provide connectivity to several communities and looped riding opportunities in central Marquette County. Proposals are pending securing land permissions and/or trail easements.	Description: Extend ORV route in Negaunee along IOHT to provide legal RR crossing and access to roads/routes open to ORVs to the east. Work will include new trail construction and large culvert installation. Snowmobile trail will be relocated off of non-motorized IOHT to new trail segment.	Description: ORV Designate segments of existing RR grade and county roads to provide ORV connectivity between Chatham and Little Lake and beyond.	Description: ORV Designate existing snowmobile trails that are already heavily used by ORVs. Designation will allow funding for maintenance and provide direction for community connectivity.
Trail Use: ORV	Trail Use: ORV	Trail Use: ORV & Snowmobile	Trail Use: ORV	Trail Use: ORV
Anticipated Completion: TBD	Anticipated Completion: TBD	Anticipated Completion: Spring 2025	Anticipated Completion: Fall 2025	Anticipated Completion: Summer 2025
Q3 Update: No new updates.	Q3 Update: No new updates.	Q3 Update: Additional work has been completed. Project complete.	Q3 Update: No new updates.	Q2 Update: No new updates.

Trail Specialist: Carly Graff, Western Upper Peninsula

Project Name: Wakefield to Ironwood Connector	Project Name: Aetna Mine Trail	Project Name: Misery River Reroute	Project Name: Chassell to Houghton Trail
Description: Opening the ORV trail starting in Wakefield running through Ironwood to Hurley, WI.	Description: Opening the Aetna Mine Trail as a connector trail. ORVs are currently driving through the river, funding for a bridge to prevent this.	Description: Reroute around the Misery River when bridgework is being completed.	Description: Assess storm damage and use of motorized vehicles on trail.
Trail Use: ORV	Trail Use: ORV/Snowmobile	Trail Use: Rail Trails	Trail Use: Rail Trails
Anticipated Completion: Summer/Fall 2025	Anticipated Completion: Summer/Fall 2025	Anticipated Completion: TBD	Anticipated Completion: Ongoing
Q3 Update: All landowner permissions have been acquired, maps completed and put into the Recreation Trail Proposal database. Awaiting approvals.	Q3 Update: The Nature Conservancy has given long-term permission and helping to fund the bridge. Put into the Recreation Trail Proposal database. Awaiting approvals.	Q3 Update: FRD has completed the reroute, it is ready for when it needs to be used.	Q3 Update: Working with local municipalities to fix storm damage caused by the storm in June. Working on putting more non-motorized vehicle posts out.

Project Name: Sidnaw Trailhead	Project Name: Western UP Dust Control	Project Name: New Baraga County Trails and Rec Association ORV Routes	Project Name: Trail 15 Open for winter
Description: Construction of a trailhead in Sidnaw for ORV and snowmobiles.	Description: Perform dust control at multiple sites on ORV routes to prevent dust caused by ORV traffic in residential areas and other areas meeting criteria. Two treatments planned, one for spring and one late summer or early fall.	Description: L'Anse to Baraga and Mt. Arvon Loops	Description: Working with the club to reopen Trail 15 from Baraga North to Chassell
Trail Use: ORV and Snowmobiles	Trail Use: ORV	Trail Use: ORV	Trail Use: Snowmobile
Anticipated Completion: 2025/2026	Anticipated Completion: Summer Completed	Anticipated Completion: 2025	Anticipated Completion: 2025-2026

Q3 Update: MI TRALES applied for funding on FY26 Grant & has landowner agreement.	Q3 Update: Dust Control was completed the week of June 9 th	Q3 Update: Trails approved and funding in their grants	Q3 Update: Working with club and railroad to reopen
--	---	---	--

Project Name: Agate Falls/ Middle Branch Trestle Reconstruction	Project Name: Lake Mary Brushing
Description: Reconstruction of the Agate Bridge.	Description: Brushing the Lake Mary pathway.
Trail Use: Snowmobile/ORV	Trail Use: Non-Motorized
Anticipated Completion: 2025	Anticipated Completion: Completed
Q3 Update: Set to begin soon	Q3 Update: Completed by Bewabic State Park staff